

## Kentucky Transportation Cabinet and Lexington Firm Recognized for Environmental Excellence at 4th Annual Globe Awards Lunch

**T**he Paris Pike Project was among highway, road and airport improvement projects from Colorado to Connecticut recognized recently by the American Road & Transportation Builders Association Transportation Development Foundation's (ARTBA-TDF) fourth annual "Globe Awards" lunch, held in Washington, D.C.



Winning in the "Road" category was the Kentucky Transportation Cabinet and the H. W. Lochner consulting engineering group of Lexington for the Paris Pike Reconstruction. The judges cited the project as a model of construction in a "context sensitive design."

In their remarks the judges stated, "Adding capacity and improving safety while simultaneously improving the aesthetic appearance of the roadway were hallmarks of the successful \$70 million reconstruction of Paris Pike, located between Lexington and Paris. With extensive support and involvement from the community, the project team designed a road alignment that preserved historically significant trees, conserved original topsoil and relocated historical dry-laid fences that were more than 100 years old."

Established by the ARTBA Board of Directors in 1998, the "Globe Awards" recognize: private-sector firms and public-sector transportation agencies that do an outstanding job in protecting and/or enhancing the natural environment in the planning, design and construction of U.S. transportation infrastructure projects; and transportation construction-related product manufacturers and material suppliers that utilize exemplary environmental processes to protect and enhance the natural environment.

ARTBA, which marked its 100th anniversary last year, is the transportation construction industry's consensus voice in the Nation's Capital. The industry ARTBA represents helps generate more than \$200 billion annually in U.S. economic activity and sustains more than 2.2 million American jobs.

**Earlier this month, Debra Gabbard took on the role of Acting Commissioner of the Department of Fiscal Management. Debra replaced Taylor Manley who has recently retired. Please give Debra your full cooperation and wish her well with her new endeavors.**

**HOY**  
EN LAS AMÉRICAS

The story that appeared in the July issue of Konnection on the engineering scholarship program was printed in Spanish in the September 12th issue of "Hoy en las Americas" (Today in the Americas). The Spanish newspaper is published twice-monthly and distributed in Jefferson, Shelby, Fayette, Franklin, Anderson, Hardin, Oldham, Nelson, Marion, Washington and Henry counties in Kentucky and New Albany and Jeffersonville in Indiana. The story featured one of the scholarship recipients, Ricardo Policicchio, a native of Argentina.

## A Man of Honor

While most of us had movie stars and athletes as childhood role models, Ricardo's hero was a navy diver!

Ricardo Moore, who works in the Office of Minority Affairs, is the nephew of Carl Brashear, the first African American Navy Master Diver. Brashear, a native of Kentucky, was born in Hardin County in 1931 and enlisted in the navy when he was 17. Brashear continued his navy career despite an amputated leg that resulted from a ship accident in 1966. He retired in 1979.

As a young child, Ricardo remembers his uncle telling stories of his triumphs and struggles as a diver. Ricardo recalls his uncle telling him about the accident that caused his leg to be amputated. "When the accident occurred, Uncle Carl was in Spain. He was to be flown to the hospital in Germany, but the helicopter ran out of gas on the way there. Once the helicopter was refueled and they landed in Germany, Uncle Carl had lost a lot of blood.

*Carl Brashear's diving suit*

So, the hospital staff went ahead and put him in the morgue. But as the end of the shift was approaching, a staff member walked through the morgue for the last time, checked Uncle Carl and found a faint heartbeat! Uncle Carl exclaimed, 'If I can survive the morgue, then I can survive anything.'"

If the story of an African American diver with an amputated leg sounds familiar, then maybe you've seen the movie *Men of Honor* with Cuba Gooding, Jr. who plays the role of Brashear. The life of Brashear is accurately portrayed in this film. Ricardo said the limelight has not changed his uncle one bit. "He is still the same down to earth,

humble person he's always been."

Even more attention has come Brashear's way. Re-

cently, the Kentucky History Center put Brashear's diving suit on display in their *African Americans in the Military* museum. The suit will be on display now through February 2004. Ricardo and his family attended the unveiling of the exhibit and they were honored that Brashear was recognized in this way.

Ricardo proudly stated what he thought of Brashear, "Not only is he my uncle, he's a hero to me and many other people. He did not nor will not let anyone keep him from accomplishing his dreams and goals. He is an amazing individual."



*Photograph of Carl Brashear*



*Ricardo stands near the diver suit on display at the Kentucky History Center.*

# Support Our Troops

Steve Edwards  
District 5

Jon Tedder  
District 9

John Callihan  
District 5

Richard Deters  
District 6

Harold "Johnson" Broughton  
District 11

Anthony Downs  
Division of  
Equipment

Robert Stephen Mattingly  
District 9

James Covany  
Fleet  
Management

William Rein  
Vehicle  
Enforcement

Earl Peace  
District 11

Ernest Hardin  
District 4

Alfred Wesley  
District 4

Mark Dicken  
Vehicle  
Enforcement

Joseph Tucker  
Division of  
Planning

Richard Davis  
District One

## Pre-Construction Project Manager Academy

The Department of Highways, the Division of Employee Recruitment & Development, and the Kentucky Transportation Center recently completed the pilot workshop for the Pre-Construction Project Manager Academy. This course is a collaborative effort to provide technical information to those employees assigned to manage highway projects.

The 8 day course covered all aspects of a project—including planning, design, right of way, utilities, and environment. In addition to speakers from the Transportation Cabinet, participants heard from several luncheon speakers, such as Calvin Grayson, former KYTC cabinet secretary, and Susanna Thomas, founder of the preservation group, Shakertown Coalition.

Bill Gulick, Assistant State Highway Engineer and the project sponsor, stated, "The Kentucky Transportation Cabinet can no longer wait for change, we must create this change from within by developing the talents and resources of our project managers. They need to be *involved* in the planning, *responsible* for the pre-construction, and a *consultant* during the construction."

Participants who completed the program expressed positive support for the new direction the cabinet is taking toward managing highway projects.



*Bill Gulick, project sponsor and Assistant State Highway Engineer, fields questions from the class.*

*"The academy will take young engineers with little experience and accelerate their effectiveness immensely. PPMA academy will be a tremendous asset to the development of the KYTC and its project delivery,"* Chuck Allen, District 10.

*"The Preconstruction Project Manager's Academy is the only training I've ever had that devoted 100% of the time to things relevant to my job. None of the time spent in the class was wasted,"* Kevin Rust, District 6.

The second class is scheduled to begin October 7 with more classes scheduled in 2004.



### **Pre-construction Project Manager Academy**

(from bottom left): D. Eldridge, A. Johannes, K. Damron, J. Ballinger, T. Choate, K. Cox  
2<sup>nd</sup> row: J. Eckler, D. Beattie, K. Rust, J. Jasper, D. Jones, G. Valentine, G. Groves, C. Allen, J. Holcomb, J. Blankenship, E. Green (absent from picture – K. Villier)



## Kentucky Vehicle Enforcement Officers Receive National Awards for Criminal Interdiction

**KVE** officers Shannon Chelf, Joey Conn and Steve Burke recently received distinguished awards for criminal interdiction at the 13th Annual Motor Vehicle Criminal Interdiction, Intelligence Networking and Training Conference in Phoenix, Arizona. The Drug Enforcement Administration and the Federal Motor Carrier Safety Administration sponsored the conference. An awards banquet was held at the conference to honor top law enforcement and recognize interdiction programs throughout North America.



Officer Shannon Chelf received the most prestigious award of the night. Officer Chelf was awarded the Interdiction Officer of the Year. Over the past year, Officer Chelf initiated or assisted in six bulk drug seizures on Interstate 65 in Western Kentucky. As a result of these drug cases, KVE was able to seize and remove over 600 pounds of marijuana and 64 pounds of cocaine with a street value of \$1,171,200.00 and seized over \$857,750.00 in currency.

KVE was also recognized for having the top criminal interdiction team in the country. KVE's Special Operations officers Joey Conn, Steve Burke, and Shannon Chelf make up the team that is assigned to patrol the I-65 corridor. The team was credited with seizing over 1,448 pounds of marijuana with a street value of \$3.2 million.

These awards completed the trifecta for KVE. In 2000, Lieutenant Randy Jenkins was given the Instructor of the Year award. KVE is the only law enforcement agency to win the top three awards presented at this national conference.



KVE Canine Officer Tony Wilson and his canine partner, Ben, recently returned from the United States Police Canine Association (USPCA) Regional Trials held in Middletown, Ohio.

Tony and Ben, a three-year-old Labrador retriever, competed against 32 canine teams in a series of searches, and finished second in both indoor and outdoor searches. They took first place overall with a score of 198.99 out of 200 possible points. The USPCA is one of the largest police canine organizations in the United States.

## Kentucky's TRIMARC Web site Wins National Award for Traveler Information

**T**he Web site for the Traffic Response and Incident Management Assisting the River Cities (TRIMARC) won a national award recently in Minneapolis. The Federal Highway Administration (FHWA) recognized [www.trimarc.org/](http://www.trimarc.org/) as a top traffic information site in its third annual competition.

Partners in the Louisville-Southern Indiana Freeway Management System are the Kentucky Transportation Cabinet, the Indiana Department of Transportation and the FHWA. TRIMARC was one of four sites chosen for content and usability from a national review of 276-traveler information Web sites.

TRIMARC became operational in 2000 with 12 overhead interstate signs giving up-to-date travel information. This state-of-the art system is designed to improve safety, emergency response, travel time and air quality within the Greater Louisville

area. The Web site for the service went online in the spring of 2001. Users of the site can click on signs or cameras to get detailed information. Traffic and travel messages for motorists, including Amber Alerts, are posted on TRIMARC and information on incidents that are posted on the Web are also sent to Kentucky's 511 travel and traffic information system.

In making the award presentations, FHWA Deputy Administrator Rick Capka said, "The World Wide Web is an important means of providing

tion."

John Crossfield, TRIMARC project manager with the Kentucky Transportation Cabinet, said, "the design of the Web site makes it easy for motorists to make decisions on their journeys."

The TRIMARC Web site is currently experiencing almost 3,000 visits per week. In February of this year, when severe weather was greatly impacting travel, the site averaged 600 hits per day.

Secretary Codell accepted the award at the board of directors meeting of the American Association of State Highway and Transportation Officials.

TRIMARC is part of a national initiative to deploy Intelligent Transportation Systems to 75 of the nation's largest metropolitan areas. Northrop Grumman Mission Systems operates the Louisville-based system.



traveler information. These outstanding sites were chosen because of their 'user friendliness,' comprehensiveness of information and real-time reporting. Reliable, accessible traveler information saves travelers and shippers lives, time and money by giving them choices of time, route and even mode of transporta-

## Kentucky Highway Team Wins National Quality Award

### Quality, History and Technology Merged in Paris Pike

**T**he National Partnership for Highway Quality (NPHQ) recently presented its 2003 State Award to the Cabinet, KYTC construction manager Bart Bryant, Hinkle Contracting, Central Rock Mineral Co., and H.W. Lochner, Inc. for the Paris Pike Reconstruction Project. The team was honored for its initiatives for driver safety while upholding the interests of those who live and work along the route. NPHQ is a partnership of federal and state highway officials and leaders in the roadway industry who advocate customer-centered practices for roads that are completed quicker, ride better, last longer, reduce congestion and improve safety.

Paris Pike is the four-lane 12 1/2 mile stretch of US 68/US 27 from Lexington to Paris, KY. Until this project, its alignment had remained essentially unchanged since the early 1830s. Its reconstruction had been the subject of a 20-year-old court injunction resulting from public controversy over the widening of the pike that winds through the state's scenic and historically rich countryside. The impasse ended when KYTC launched a partnering approach comprised of engineers, landscape architects, historic preservationists, scenic road specialists, a public participation manager, and a task force of federal, state, county, city, and citizen representatives.

Secretary Codell praised the employees and all the partners involved in creating such a beautiful and functional project. Codell also called Paris Pike a model in highway design and historical preservation. "In the beginning stages of Paris Pike, it was a "D.A.D." project, decide, announce and defend. It was our way or no way! But once we finally launched a consensus building effort, a planning and design process evolved that was successful in winning acceptance by all concerned citizens. It became a "P.O.P." project, a publicly owned project. And what resulted was a safely designed roadway that preserved the scenic and

agriculture aspects of the area, one of which we are very proud. This project and the approach used resulted in the birth of the context sensitive design philosophy in Kentucky."

The Executive Director of the National Partnership for Highway Quality, Bob Templeton, said, "The impetus for the project was safety, and the partnering effort covered safety and much more. It brought people together to decide how two additional lanes could fit naturally into the landscape. The design team used the latest in computer graphics technology to

show the community what the reconstructed Paris Pike would look like before each stage of the project in order to gain their feedback. Project leaders sought out a world class master craftsman to teach masons how to dry lay rock fences so the fences along the bluegrass countryside would appear untouched from the project. Grass shoulders reconciled safety and aesthetic sensitivities. These are just a few

examples of stakeholders strategizing for a road that serves customers and respects property and history."

NPHQ is composed of the Federal Highway Administration (FHWA), the American Association of State Highway and Transportation Officials (AASHTO), the American Concrete Pavement Association (ACPA), the American Council of Engineering Companies (ACEC), the American Public Works Association (APWA), the American Road and Transportation Builders Association (ARTBA), the American Traffic Safety Services Association (ATSSA), the Asphalt Institute, the Associated General Contractors of America (AGC), the Foundation for Pavement Preservation (FP2), the National Asphalt Pavement Association (NAPA), the National Institute for Certification in Engineering Technologies (NICET), and the National Ready Mixed Concrete Association (NRMCA).

